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Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether there is any proposal to constitute these Commissioners into a separate cadre under the Government? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" Yes, Sir; ultimately the Government propose to constitute a separate cadre."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" There are certain municipalities which are not included in the schedule to the amending Bill. May I know what are the reasons which prompted the Government to appoint Revenue Officers to some municipalities only? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" Reasons were given whenever an appointment of Commissioner was made to any municipality."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI :—" May I know why the Government have not appointed any Commissioner for the Guntur Municipality? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" There are 86 municipalities and we have made appointments of Commissioners only to 17 of them. I cannot give reasons why Commissioners have not been appointed to others."

Decision of the Madras High Court regarding the removal of veil by gosha ladies at the time of exercising their franchise.

* 352 *Q.*—Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he has read the judgment of the hon. the Officiating Chief Justice in the Tinnevelly election case in which the point whether a candidate had a right to insist upon the removal of the veil by the gosha ladies was commented upon;

(*b*) whether the Government have ascertained the views of the leading Muslims in Madras and elsewhere as to how far the law as laid down in that case is in accordance with Muhammadan sentiment; and

(*c*) what steps the Government propose to take in order to afford facilities to gosha ladies to exercise their franchise without having the necessity of removing their veils?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) There is a proposal before the Government to amend suitably the rules for the election of members of municipal councils and local boards.

Economic Condition

Enquiry, if any, into the economic condition of the ryots.

* 353 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have made any enquiry regarding the present economic condition of the ryots in this province; and

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(b) whether the prices of the main agricultural products have risen or fallen as compared with last year and by what per cent?

A.—(a) Enquiries are being made.

(b) The presidency averages of the retail prices of certain principal food crops for August 1933 show a fall as compared with similar averages for the corresponding month of last year. The percentages of fall are given below:—

	Percentage of fall.
Paddy, first sort	18·5
Do. second sort	16·7
Cholam	19·2
Cumbu	11·5
Ragi	9·7

11-30 a.m. Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know what sort of enquiry is being made, by whom and since what time?"

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"Some weeks ago, the Board of Revenue were asked to obtain detailed reports from various Collectors."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I ask whether the result of the enquiries that are being made will be placed on the table of the House?"

The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"The hon. Member's suggestion will be considered."

Provision of marketing facilities for paddy and other produce.

* 354 Q.—Mr. A. Pl. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what steps have been taken by the Government to provide for marketing facilities for paddy and other produce; and

(b) what steps have been taken to get a reduction of railway freights throughout the year from the South Indian Railway Company for the carriage of paddy from the Tanjore district to both inland and overland markets?

A.—(a) Attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 85 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty on 2nd August 1933.

A scheme for the marketing of groundnut in both South and North Arcot districts was brought into operation during the year.

(b) The South Indian Railway announced a reduction of about 16 per cent in the through rates for rice from Tanjore and South Arcot districts to Colombo up to 9th October 1933 and intra-provincial rates have also been reduced for distances over 175 miles. The Agent, South Indian Railway, has been asked to report whether the concessional rates to Colombo are being continued, and if so, for how long. The Agent's reply is awaited.